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NEWS RELEASE

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HELENA HOSTS MONTANA CAMPUS COMPACT CEREMONY

MISSOULA —

The Montana Campus Compact, a statewide higher education organization that supports campus-based public service, will hold its annual Ceremony for Civic Engagement on Monday, May 21, in **Helena**.

The event will be held at 3 p.m. at the Student Center of the Helena College of Technology of The University of Montana. The public is invited, and a reception will follow the ceremony.

The event honors Montana college students who have completed their terms of service in AmeriCorps-affiliated programs. AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, meets community needs through tutoring in schools, planning after-school activities for youth, collecting food for the hungry, cleaning up rivers and much more.

Gov. Judy Martz will keynote the event, and Stephen Hulbert, chancellor of UM's Western Montana College, will recognize all honorees on behalf of the MTCC Board of Directors.

"These volunteers have created an invaluable link between universities and their local communities through hard work and dedication," said Nora Knell, MTCC student development director. "By engaging in projects to meet specific community needs, their efforts have truly affected lives in the community."

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Throughout the year, dedicated Montana college students and citizens pledged to “get things done” as AmeriCorps members. Montana members participated in programs such as Campus Corps, Montana Reads and MTCC Volunteers in Service to America, and the graduates are among 40,000 AmeriCorps members in more than 500 programs nationwide. After completing a term of service, members receive an Education Award to help pay future tuition or existing college loans.

College students to be honored for public service are Joyce Workman, **Flathead Valley Community College**; Neoma Nelson-Daniels, Jennie Patterson and Laura Sundquist, **Montana State University-Bozeman**; Margaret Kucera, Jane Lindsay, Tiffany Lowder and Sabrina Stanger, **MSU-Northern**; Theresa Seccomb and RuthAnne Shope, **Montana Tech of UM**; Shane Dominguez, **Salish Kootenai College**; Carrie Cochran, Cheryl Eslami, Trina Zahller and Amy Esp, **UM-Missoula**; Chris Logan, John Van Setten, Shelley Clark and Dakota Rosales, **University of Great Falls**; and Ria Overholt and Polly Rhodes, **UM-Western**.

Additionally, the Faculty and Student Fellowship programs have supported seven faculty members and seven students who successfully implemented service-learning components into their academic work. They worked to connect higher education with the larger society to instill Montana’s young people with an ethic of service.

Fellowship projects this year included a violence risk awareness and assessment study, physical therapy services to people receiving public health assistance and the construction of a boardwalk leading to an outdoor science classroom on the Blackfeet Reservation.

“The Faculty and Student Fellowship programs work to support professors’ and students’ drive to participate in civic engagement,” said Therese Hetzel, MTCC service-learning program manager. “Service-learning assists colleges in their mission to prepare their students to be active, committed and informed leaders of their communities.”

Faculty and student fellows receive a stipend and training and technical assistance

throughout the year of their fellowship. When they are finished, they become part of a cadre of service-learning scholars located throughout the state who serve as valuable resources for other colleagues interested in service-learning.

Faculty fellows who will be honored are Marvin Lansverk, **MSU-Bozeman**; Christine Kowalski and Jamyne Richardson, **MSU-Great Falls College of Technology**; William Macgregor, **MSU-Northern**; Maxine Jacobson, **UM-Missoula**; and Patrick Moore and Donna Zook, **University of Great Falls**.

Student fellows who will be honored are Ronald CalfBossRibs, **Blackfeet Community College**; Patricia Drane, **Flathead Valley Community College**; Mark Mistic, **FVCC**; Kelda Hendrickson, **Montana Tech of UM**; Todd Baker, **MSU-Bozeman**; Deb LaTray, **MSU-Northern**; and Jason Karp, **UM-Missoula**.

MTCC is a nonprofit coalition of 15 college presidents and chancellors committed to helping students develop the values and skills of citizenship through civic engagement and participation in public service. It is the only statewide higher education organization whose primary purpose is to support campus-based public service. By creating a supportive environment for involvement in community public service, these academic leaders believe that their institutions can best prepare the next generation of informed, active, committed citizen leaders for Montana.

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